

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	China	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]
SUBJECT	Supply and Prices of Drugs in Harbin	DATE DISTR.	15 April 1954
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
25X1X (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. In the fall of 1953 there were 40 private pharmacies in Harbin which received supplies without limitations or restrictions from a government store in the Fuddadian¹ suburb of old Harbin. Seventy percent of the drugs arriving in Harbin were from pharmaceutical factories in Shanghai.² About 50 or 60 small pharmaceutical workshops in Harbin,³ each employing five or six men, were producing drugs such as vitamins, sulfanimides, glucose, and calcium.
2. Foreign manufactured drugs, including American, British, German, Swiss, Italian, and Czech manufactured drugs, were available in ample quantities on the local markets in Harbin. Included among the foreign manufactured drugs available were penicillin,⁴ streptomycin,⁵ rimiphon manufactured by Italian Milano and Swiss La Roche, and PAS (para-amino salicylic acid). PAS was available in such quantities that its price had fallen considerably during a few months before the fall of 1953.⁶
3. The price of drugs in Harbin varied considerably in accordance with their places of manufacture. American manufactured drugs were in greater demand,⁷ although they were much more expensive than other drugs. Two hundred thousand units of American manufactured penicillin cost JMP 18,000, while the same amount of Soviet manufactured penicillin cost JMP 8,000.⁸ Two hundred thousand units of American manufactured streptomycin cost JMP 60,000; Swiss manufactured streptomycin cost JMP 21,000 for 200,000 units; and Soviet manufactured streptomycin cost JMP 24,000 for 200,000 units. One tablet of locally manufactured sulfathiazole cost JMP 300, and compared with JMP 3,000 for one tablet of foreign manufactured sulfathiazole.

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1. The source is probably referring to Fuchiatien, which is the Chinese section of Harbin.

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- 25X1A 2. According to available information from [REDACTED] May 1953, most medical supplies in Harbin appeared to have been drawn from Shanghai. [REDACTED] for information concerning pharmaceutical factories in Shanghai in November 1953.
- 25X1X 3. In early 1952 there were about ten laboratories in Harbin producing various drugs, [REDACTED]
- 25X1X 4. According to available information [REDACTED] most penicillin in Harbin was of Soviet origin, but German, Swiss, Dutch, and French makes were also available.
- 25X1X 5. There was no serious shortage of streptomycin in Harbin, but it was more difficult to obtain than any other item, according to available information [REDACTED]
- 25X1A 6. For information concerning the price of PAS in other areas, Canton and Shanghai, in March and April 1953, [REDACTED]
- 25X1X 7. Most doctors prefer Western European and American drugs when they are available, [REDACTED]
- 25X1X 8. According to available information [REDACTED] in early May 1953, in Harbin 200,000 units of penicillin cost from JMP 12,000 to JMP 14,000 retail.

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